

# 13<sup>th</sup>

DISTRICT

ALDERMAN

# Scott P. Spiker



*The  
Garden  
District*

200 E. Wells St. | Milwaukee, WI 53202 | (414) 286-8537 | [milwaukee.gov/district13](http://milwaukee.gov/district13) | [Scott.Spiker@milwaukee.gov](mailto:Scott.Spiker@milwaukee.gov)

FALL 23

## Dear Friends and Neighbors,

I wanted to take a moment to share with you some of the exciting new developments in our district over this past year. From new businesses, to new investments in our infrastructure, to new improvements in how we combat crime, there is a lot of good news to report. We are lucky to live in one of the nicest areas of the city, and I promise to continue to work tirelessly with residents and the business community to keep it that way!

**Scott Spiker**

Alderman, 13th District



### PLEASE NOTE

State law requires that we discontinue mass mailings from my office as of December 1. As a result, this will be the last newsletter you receive until after the Tuesday, April 2nd spring election. However, I will still be free to share information by means of my private social media channels (e.g., Nextdoor, Facebook, etc.). Moreover, you are always free to call or email me with any questions you may have. I am here to help!



(414) 286-8537



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## Committee Assignments

### Chair

- Public Safety and Health Committee

### Vice Chair

- Finance and Personnel Committee

### Member

- Steering and Rules Committee
- Milwaukee Library Board

### View meetings online:

[milwaukee.gov/citychannel](http://milwaukee.gov/citychannel)

## Save-The-Date

**TUE NOVEMBER 28TH**

### Annual Tree Lighting

6:00PM ► Program

7:00PM ► Tree Lighting

Simon's Gardens  
6th and Howard

## Stay Informed

# E-Notify



GET CITY INFORMATION BY EMAIL

For Citywide and district updates, sign-up for notifications at [milwaukee.gov/enotify](http://milwaukee.gov/enotify) and visit [milwaukee.gov/district13](http://milwaukee.gov/district13)

**Wioletta's Polish Market (3955 S. Howell Ave.)**  
Polish deli, bakery, groceries and gifts!



## New(er) Businesses in the District

Each time a well-established restaurant closes, the race is on to find a replacement worthy of the area and its residents. I am pleased that we have been able to recruit such great new businesses to our area in the last couple of years. Try them out if you haven't already! 🍷

### Was then...

### Is now...

Tippecanoe Hardware 3955 S. Howell	Wioletta's Polish Market
Iron Grate BBQ 4125 S. Howell	Hot Dish Pantry
Perkins - 1st & Layton	Tsunami Restaurant
Beer Belly's - 5th & Layton	Who's on Layton?
Brass Monkey - 7th & Layton	In Plane View
J Roberts Porterhouse 8th & Layton	Paradise Roastery
Fritz's Pub - 20th & Oklahoma	Fiesta Garibaldi Asadero
China House - 3158 S. 27th St.	27th Steak and Potato
Boston Market 3511 S. 27th St.	Panera Bread
Chancery - 4624 S. 27th St.	BaoBao Cuisine
Benny's Café - 5354 S. 27th St.	Benny's Café (new ownership!)

**Paradise Roastery (814 W. Layton Ave.)**

Fresh roasted nuts, coffee, and tasty sweets!



**Hot Dish Pantry (4125 S. Howell Ave.)**

A wide variety of comfort food, expertly prepared.

Alderman Spiker is joined at National Night Out by Captain Pfeiffer and our new Community Prosecutor, Franco Mineo.



## Our New Community Prosecutor

For the last ten plus years, our police district has been without a community prosecutor: a member of the District Attorney's office who can work hand-in-hand with the Milwaukee Police Department to address nuisances throughout the district.

One of my goals when I first became alderman was to fill this gap. I am happy to report that

working with the local business associations and the DA's office, we were able to bring over a thirteen-year veteran prosecutor, Franco Mineo, who has made an immediate impact in the district. A huge shout out to Tara Cavazos with the 27th Street BID on helping to leverage the funds required to get this long-sought-after need fulfilled. ▀

## Criminals Should Smile: They May Be on Camera!

Criminals, beware. If you are in a stolen vehicle or out doing a little shoplifting on the 27th Street corridor, your actions are being monitored by the police. I facilitated a partnership between law enforcement (including our friends over in Greenfield) and the business community that has resulted in new "automated license-plate readers" and "point-tilt-zoom" cameras being installed along that corridor between Oklahoma and College.

Now, if you are in a stolen vehicle (even one without plates) or making a getaway after stealing from a store in the area, your activities are likely to be caught on camera and shared with the police. This is another great example of what can happen when local government partners with the business community to create a safer space for everyone. ▀

## Impounding the Vehicles of Reckless Drivers

As many of you know, one of the issues that I am most passionate about is doing everything we can to take back our streets from the scourge of reckless driving. While I worked with MPD to make sure that they could tow the unregistered vehicles of reckless drivers, until recently the City was barred by the state from allowing the towing of such vehicles if they were registered.

That changed earlier this year when the State—led in the Assembly by former alderman Bob Donovan—changed the law to allow us to empower our police chief to do just that. No sooner was the ink dry on that new state law, than I put forward a city ordinance that allowed the chief to do the maximum allowed under it. Happily, this ordinance was unanimously passed by the Council and signed by the Mayor. While—as I've said before—I'd be happier to see the criminals who drive recklessly taken off the streets, the police chief now has the power to tow even registered vehicles under certain conditions. While it won't solve the problem by itself, we need all the tools we can get to tackle this vexing issue. The safety and well-being of our drivers, bicyclists, and pedestrians depends on it! ▀

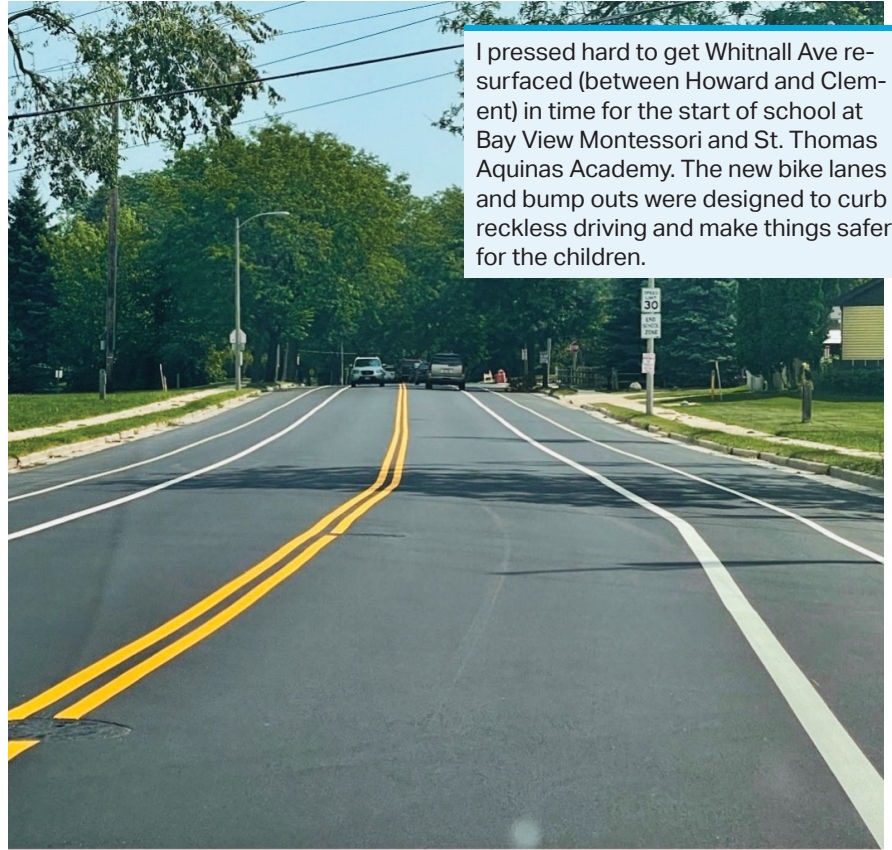
## Improving Our Streets

At over a million dollars a mile(!), repaving a street is never cheap. However, in addition to using our regular city funds, we are always looking for ways to bring in more money to address the aging roadways in our district.

Next year will be a banner year in that regard. Howard Ave between 6th and Clement will be repaved using State funds to cover approximately 80% of the cost. That is a much-needed improvement to a major arterial in our district that is in terrible shape. Similarly, Oklahoma Ave between 27th and 6th St will be restriped as well as have bump outs and pedestrian refuge islands installed, again using State dollars to cover 80% of the cost.

On both projects, traffic calming measures will be employed to reduce speeding and reckless driving. Thank you to all of the neighbors who joined me in attending the meetings that the Dept. of Public Works held on these critical infrastructure projects.

In addition, the closure of TID 76 (a tax-incremental-financing tool for development of the area around the former Foster Pontiac location on S 27th St near the current Buffalo Wild Wings) means



I pressed hard to get Whitnall Ave resurfaced (between Howard and Clement) in time for the start of school at Bay View Montessori and St. Thomas Aquinas Academy. The new bike lanes and bump outs were designed to curb reckless driving and make things safer for the children.

that money from the property taxes generated by that commercial development can be used for roads within a half mile radius of its boundaries.

As a result, next year there will be funds available to resurface roads in the vicinity of that development, such as Plainfield Ave between 20th and 27th, Wilbur from 20th to 25th (the creek), Morgan Ave between 20th and 27th, as well as 20th St

from Howard to Bolivar and 23rd St from Leroy to Bolivar. It will also fund traffic calming measures taken to deal with the speeding on S 20th St between Howard and Morgan.

With construction costs increasing, we have to be more creative in identifying additional funding sources to fix our roads. I will continue to look for inventive solutions like those above. ▲

## Construction Underway

"What are they building there?" It's a question I get asked a lot. At 20th and Layton they are building a "micro-hospital," as reported in the last newsletter. At 5th and Layton they are finishing a Taco John's,

after which they will be putting a Popeyes in the space next to it. And behind Reagan High School they are building an addition with a science wing and athletic facilities.

If you are curious about some-

thing you see going up in the district, feel free to email me at **scott.spiker@milwaukee.gov** or call my office at **(414) 286-8537**. I'm happy to share with you what I know!

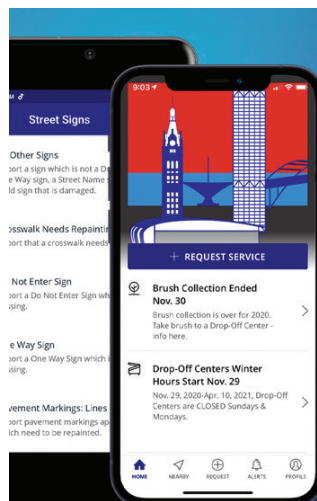
## 2024 City Budget – Growth, Not Cuts

What a difference a year makes! Due to new revenue streams made available by legislation at the State level, in this year's budget we were able to add three new classes of police recruits, reopen a fire station (in our district over on 13th St near Layton!), invest more money in repaving our streets than ever before, and much, much more! That's a far cry from where we stood last year when we faced a fiscal cliff that threatened every city service, including most especially police, fire, and libraries.

In addition, I am supporting an amendment—as this newsletter goes to press—that would build on that growth by adding Sunday hours at two more libraries (including a south side one), reduce the backlog for pruning and replacing trees, add more money for sidewalk slab replacement, and create a revolving loan fund to help property owners abate lead paint hazards throughout the city. The remainder of the federal American Recovery Plan Act (or ARPA) funds make these additional improvements achievable.

After years of cuts, I am cheered by the brighter future that the state legislation has made possible. Budgeting is never easy, but at least now we can see a horizon in which public safety, business development, and infrastructure improve. Onward and upward! 🚀

Alderman Spiker speaks with a resident following his October Town Hall on the City Budget, which took place at Victory School near 23rd and Ramsey.

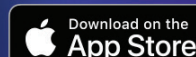


## MKE Mobile Action

Request services, file reports and follow up from your mobile device.

Use MKE Mobile Action to ensure a speedy resolution to issues. Examples of issues that can be reported include: abandoned vehicles, graffiti, litter, potholes, and more.

Available on iOS and Android devices.



## Happy Halloween

Thank you to the South 27th Street Business Association, Serving Older Adults, and our own Police District Six for hosting another great Trunk-or-Treat event in the parking lot outside the Wilson Senior Center. The little ghouls and goblins who attended were overjoyed with the creative decorations and tasty treats. Thank you as well to all of the sponsors, who clearly got into the Halloween spirit!

Not to be outdone, the Garden District Neighborhood Association hosted their second annual Ghostly Garden Walk on the grounds near 6th and Howard and made sure that every family who attended had a spook-tacular time!



## Streetlight Update

As reported in a previous newsletter, I spearheaded an effort to secure \$10 million in federal American Rescue Plan Act funding to replace the 13 worst streetlighting circuits in the city, including four in our district. A year later, I worked with my colleagues on the Council to secure \$10 million more for the next tier of troubled circuits.

Fast forward to this year when we put out bids for the first part of that work with outside electrical contractors...twice. The shortage in electricians meant that either we got no response at all or the bids came in WAY over budget. That necessitated a change in plans. Public Works is still going to complete all of the engineering work on the circuits and buy the materials needed. But we are going to need to shift to completing the other work in house, which will take longer.

The good news is that we can use a portion of the money to switch over the lights on all of our multi circuits to LEDs, which will bring about a substantial energy savings for the city. And the good news for our district is that we still can complete two of the four most troubled circuits in our area relatively quickly. It's a huge mountain to climb when you're looking at updating the City's infrastructure to today's standards, but we are making progress and the \$20 million is a worthwhile investment in that effort that I was happy to push forward.



## Big Changes in Transit Coming to the Area... in Time

I wanted to share with you two exciting developments relating to transit that are still on the drawing board.

First, the Milwaukee County Transit System is planning to add a north/south bus rapid transit line along 27th St.—all the way from Bayshore south to IKEA—to complement the existing east/west line that currently runs from downtown west to the Milwaukee Regional Medical Complex. To learn more about this important project and to offer your feedback on it, please visit [mkenorthsouth.com](http://mkenorthsouth.com).

Second, the City has been working with Greenfield to create a paved walking and biking path that would run along the WE Energies power line corridor. This "Powerline Trail" would go from approximately 105th and Coldspring in Greenfield all the way east to the lake, ideally. The section from 105th to 60th was finished last fall, and the section from 60th to 35th is slated for 2024 construction. In addition, just this summer the City of Milwaukee was awarded a grant to conduct a feasibility study to determine whether and how we can bring the trail east from there. This would be a great asset to our district, and I will do whatever I can to support its development.



## "Simon's Gardens" Gets a Name and a New Butterfly Garden!

The Garden District Neighborhood Association recently decided to name the space that they tend to, over at 6th and Howard, "Simon's Gardens" in recognition of the work that Bryan Simon put into helping to create the space, maintain it, and add to it over the years. That work is carried on by GDNA Board Chair Terry Witkowski and his dedicated and talented team of volunteers.

This year, they added a beautiful butterfly garden to the space, and completed the vision with artwork developing that theme. I want to publicly thank the board members for their tireless efforts—including



ing numerous events and activities—to improve the quality of life of residents of the district. Follow them on Facebook at "Milwaukee's Garden District," and if you want

to join the team, please reach out to Terry at (414) 731-0472. Be part of something larger than yourself, make a difference, and meet some great new people! ▀



Ms. Reinholz leads her amazing students at Burdick Elementary through some seasonal songs during last year's tree lighting. Great job by all!

## Tree Lighting and Winter Wonderland

Save the date! The annual tree lighting over at 6th and Howard will take place this year on Tuesday, November 28th. The program will begin at 6 p.m., and the tree will be lit at 7 p.m. After that, enjoy the Winter Wonderland of lights throughout December!



## 50th Anniversary of Mexican Fiesta

Congratulations to the Wisconsin Hispanic Scholarship Foundation on the 50th anniversary of Mexican Fiesta. Special thanks to Executive Director Teresa Mercado, Board President Ruben Burgos and the entire board, as well as the legion of sponsors and volunteers on making this year's Fiesta a truly amazing and joyful celebration!

## Street Maintenance

Alderman Spiker joined the street maintenance team for a day of patching potholes in the district. Make sure to tamp it down!



## Neighborhood Walks

Neighborhood walks, like this one near Cooper School, are a great way to meet with residents. If you would like to schedule one in your neighborhood, please reach out to me at **(414) 286-8537**, and we'll get something on the books!

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Alderman Spiker addresses attendees of the annual meeting of the Gateway to Milwaukee business association.



**Scott P. Spiker**

Alderman, 13<sup>th</sup> District  
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It was an honor to celebrate Wilson Commons' 20th anniversary this summer with residents and staff at their "Hog Fest!"



I had the best helpers ever for the Airport Gardens neighborhood cleanup this spring! Thank you to everyone who pitched in to keep this looking like the Garden District!